LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

We claim:

1. (Currently Amended) A combination automatic leveling fixture and bat, comprising:

a base;

at least one jaw being slidably connected to said base;

a base plate being slidable relative to said base, said base plate sliding in a substantially vertical direction which is substantially perpendicular to said at least one slidable jaw;

said at least one jaw having an angled base plate camming surface which engages said base plate and causes said at least one jaw to move a preselected distance relative to a distance moved by said base plate;

camming rollers mounted within a notch of said base plate and slidably engaging said angled base plate camming surface of said at least one jaw;

[[a]] said bat engaging said at least one jaw and said base plate when said leveling fixture moves said bat to a preselected position.

2. (Original) The automatic leveling fixture of claim 1, said at least one jaw being a first jaw and a second jaw.

3. (Original) The automatic leveling fixture of claim 2, said first jaw and said second jaw each moving one-half the distance moved by said base plate.

4. (Original) The automatic leveling fixture of claim 1, further comprising a jaw channel extending through said base in a latitudinal direction.

5. (Original) The automatic leveling fixture of claim 4, said at least one jaw sliding relative to said base through said jaw channel.

6. (Original) The automatic leveling fixture of claim 5, said jaw channel having a rail positioned therein.

7. (Original) The automatic leveling fixture of claim 1, said at least one jaw being two opposed jaws.

8. (Original) The automatic leveling fixture of claim 7, said two opposed jaws being biased inwardly toward said base plate.

9. (Original) The automatic leveling fixture of claim 8, said two opposed jaws being biased by a compression spring extending through said opposed jaws.

10. (Original) The automatic leveling fixture of claim 9, said two opposed jaws being mounted on a rail and slidable relative to said base.

11. (Original) The automatic leveling fixture of claim 1, said at least one jaw having a tapered receiving surface.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Original) The automatic leveling fixture of claim 1, said fixture receiving bats of varying diameter and position said bats at equal elevations relative to a laser.

14 – 24 (Canceled).

25. (Previously Presented) A combination automatic leveling fixture and a bat, comprising:

a base plate slidably positioned in a base, said base plate having at least one guide post slidably engaging said base through an aperture in said base;

a first jaw and a second jaw slidably adjustable relative to said base;

said first jaw and said second jaw slidable in a lateral direction which is non-parallel to a substantially vertical sliding motion of said base plate;

said first jaw and said second jaw biased toward said base plate;

said first jaw and said second jaw each having a base plate camming surface extending toward said base plate for directing said base plate a preselected distance dependent upon movement of said jaws;

said bat leveled by engagement of said bat with said first jaw, said second jaw and said base plate.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously Presented) The automatic leveling fixture of claim 25, said first jaw, said second jaw, and said base plate each having tangential contact with said bat placed in said automatic leveling fixture.

29. (Previously Presented) The automatic leveling fixture of claim 25, said first jaw and said second jaw each moving one-half of a distance moved by said base plate.

30. (Previously Presented) The automatic leveling fixture of claim 25, said base plate camming surface having a rise-to-run ratio of 2-to-1.

31. (Previously Presented) The automatic leveling fixture of claim 25, said fixture capable of receiving various bats of varying diameter and repeatably positioning a peripheral edge of each of said bats at a preselected elevation.

32. (Previously Presented) An automatic leveling fixture, comprising:

a base;

at least one jaw;

at least one base plate sliding a distance in a first vertical direction dependent upon a distance moved in a second substantially transverse direction by said at least one jaw;

said at least one base plate having at least one guide post slidably engaging said base through an aperture in said base;

an angled camming surface operably engaging said base plate and said at least one jaw;

a bat engaged by said at least one base plate and said at least one jaw;

wherein said fixture retains bats of varying diameter at equal elevations regardless of the bat diameter.

33. (Previously Presented) An automatic leveling fixture, comprising:

a base;

a least one jaw slidable in a horizontal plane;

a base plate slidable in a vertical plane a distance relative to said sliding of said at least one jaw;

an angled camming surface extending between said at least one jaw and said base plate providing motion of said base plate dependent upon a distance moved by said at least one jaw and wherein said base plate is movable relative to said base, said at least one slidable jaw and said angled camming surface;

camming rollers engaging each of said angled camming surface;

said automatic leveling fixture controlling lateral positioning and height of a bat in a repeatable manner regardless of the diameter of a bat.

34. (Previously Presented) An automatic leveling fixture, comprising:

a slidable base plate in contact with a bat;

said slidable base plate having at least one guide post slidably engaging a base through an aperture in said base;

a first and second slidable jaw in contact with opposite sides of said bat;

wherein said first and second jaws are in slidable contact with said slidable base plate, said base plate moveable in a first substantially vertical direction which is substantially transverse to a second lateral direction of said first and second slidable jaw;

a marking device adjacent said bat;

wherein said first and second jaw slidably receive said bat and cause said slidable base plate to modify the vertical position of said bat to maintain an equal distance of said bat to said marking device regardless of said bat diameter.

35. (Previously Presented) A combination assembly including an automatic leveling fixture and at least one bat, comprising:

a fixture apparatus which repeatedly positions bats of various diameters at a preselected elevation, wherein a peripheral edge of any one of said bats has an equilateral cross-section;

said fixture comprising a pair of slidable jaws, a camming surface extending from each of said pair of slidable jaws, a base plate slidable vertically toward or away from a

fixture base along said camming surface, camming rollers disposed between said engaging each of said camming surface;

said base plate being slidable a first distance dependent on a second distance moved by said camming surface and said pair of jaws;

said fixture apparatus further repeatedly positioning a center point of each of said bats at a preselected longitudinal and latitudinal position.

36. (Previously Presented) An automatic leveling fixture, comprising:

a base;

opposed jaws slidably connected to said base;

a slidable base plate being slidable relative to said base and said opposed jaws;

said slidable base plate having at least one guide post slidably engaging a base through an aperture in said base;

said slidable base plate being slidable in a first substantially vertical direction and said opposed jaws being slidable in a second lateral direction;

a base plate camming surface extending from said opposed jaws and engaging said movable base plate causing said jaws to move a preselected distance dependent on a distance moved by said slidable base plate.

37. (Previously Presented) A combination automatic leveling fixture and a bat, comprising:

a base plate slidably positioned in a base;

a first jaw and a second jaw slidably adjustable relative to said base;

said first jaw and said second jaw slidable in a lateral direction which is non-parallel to a substantially vertical sliding motion of said base plate;

said first jaw and said second jaw biased toward said base plate;

said first jaw and said second jaw each having a base plate camming surface extending toward said base plate for directing said base plate a preselected distance dependent upon movement of said jaws;

camming rollers engaging each of said base plate camming surface;

said bat leveled by engagement of said bat with said first jaw, said second jaw and said base plate.